

**RESEARCH PAPER****The Role of Right-Wing Political Parties in Politics of Pakistan: An Exploratory Study****¹Ibtasam Zafar Butt* , ²Zeenat and ³Ayesha Malik**

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the role of right-wing political parties in Pakistan, their influence on the nation's political and cultural landscape, and the challenges they face in the modern socio-political context. Right-wing political parties in Pakistan have played a significant role in promoting conservative, religious, and nationalist ideals, shaping the country's identity as an Islamic state. They have influenced the constitution, legislative and cultural policies, and social and foreign policies. However, as the country's socio-political landscape evolves, these parties face growing challenges, including internal ideological divides, competition with radical factions, civil-military relations pressures, and global scrutiny of religious extremism. In this study, qualitative, historical, analyzing, and exploratory approach was used to examine the historical contributions of right-wing parties, their ideological shifts, and key policy decisions, providing a comprehensive understanding of their ability to maintain influence amidst emerging political and social pressures. The study reveals that right-wing parties in Pakistan have effectively shaped the country's policies based on religious values, national sovereignty, and conservative socio-economic principles, particularly in incorporating Islamic values and resisting Western influence. However, these parties face challenges such as ideological competition, economic constraints, and the need to appeal to a diverse voter base, as well as civil-military tensions limiting their policy autonomy in foreign policy and national security. Right-wing parties in Pakistan should adopt a balanced approach, combining conservative values with economic and social reforms. Moderate stances on social justice and international engagement could appeal to a wider constituency. Addressing educational reforms that integrate modern subjects with religious education could mitigate extremism criticisms and provide a balanced policy agenda. These adaptations could help sustain ideological foundations while appealing to diverse voter demographics, fostering a stable and inclusive political environment.

Keywords: Ideological, Islamic Parties, Political Parties, Right-Wing**Introduction**

The right-wing political parties in Pakistan have played a significant role in shaping the country's political landscape, focusing on conservative, religious, and nationalist values. Their emphasis on preserving traditional norms, religious identity, and national sovereignty has significantly influenced political and policy directions. However, these parties face challenges such as ideological competition, economic constraints, and balancing religious values with moderate political appeal. (Fareed, et. al., 2019). Understanding these challenges is crucial for comprehending the internal and external forces shaping right-wing politics and the difficulties they face in advancing their agendas in an evolving socio-political environment. Right-wing political parties in Pakistan have significantly shaped the country's politics, advocating religious values, national security, and conservative socio-

economic principles. They have shaped the nation's legislative and cultural landscape, embedding Islamic principles in the constitution, promoting nationalist stances, and resisting Western influence. These parties have also directed Pakistan's social and foreign policies. However, they face challenges such as ideological divides, international scrutiny on religious extremism, and balancing conservative values with demands for economic modernization and social justice. These issues highlight the delicate balancing act right-wing parties must maintain to remain relevant without alienating supporters or drawing excessive criticism (Butt,2022). The article highlights the role of right-wing political parties in Pakistan's political dynamics, which have been instrumental in defining the country's identity as an Islamic state. These parties have deeply embedded religious, conservative, and nationalist ideologies in policies since independence (Kausar, et. al., 2019). By examining their contributions and challenges, it provides insight into their enduring presence and influence on Pakistan's political trajectory. The challenges faced by these parties include competition with radical factions, navigating civil-military relations, and addressing economic realities that often clash with their nationalist aspirations (Hussain,2024). The article argues that these challenges shape the political strategies, public support, and policy influence of right-wing parties in Pakistan, illustrating their impact on the broader political discourse.

Literature Review

Rightwing political parties in Pakistan, focusing on their electoral performance and factors contributing to their decline from 2008 to 2018 discusses in this study. The primary rightwing parties examined include Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-S), Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F), and Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan (JUP). The research uses qualitative social science techniques to analyze their dynamics, organizational structure, and interactions with voters. Despite their historical significance and organizational strength, there is a notable decline in their electoral support over the past decade. The study aims to contribute to the existing body of knowledge by offering a nuanced perspective on the challenges faced by rightwing parties and suggesting pathways for their reformation in the context of modern political and social realities. Understanding the decline of these parties is crucial for fostering political engagement and stability in Pakistan (Butt, 2022).

The role of political parties in Pakistan's politics since independence, focusing on their influence on the country's democratic system. It aims to understand how these parties' actions affect the state's democratic framework and the overall political environment. Despite extensive research on Pakistan's political history, there is a lack of comprehensive analysis on the roles and actions of major political parties and their direct impact on the democratic system. The study also highlights the challenges faced by the political system, such as inadequate leadership and its implications for national security and governance. The study aims to shed light on factors that hinder the development of a robust political system in Pakistan and explore the relationship between political leadership and national security. The research aims to inform policymakers and scholars about the critical role of political parties in fostering a more stable and secure Pakistan (Yasin, Jathol, & Muzaffar, 2021).

The origins, development, and nature of Islamic political parties in Pakistan, critiquing conventional theories and traditional classifications. It proposes a new theoretical framework based on historical crisis situations and categorizes them into three types: clerical, conservative, and Islamist, based on six specific variables. The research aims to highlight the complexities and variations within Islamic politics in Pakistan. There is a lack of comprehensive theoretical research focused on Islamic parties, leading to misunderstandings of their nature and political dynamics. The impact of historical crises on the evolution of Islamic parties has not been adequately analyzed, leaving a gap in understanding how these factors influence their political behavior and ideologies. The role and nature of Islamic parties in Pakistan are critical, especially in the context of the ongoing war on terror and its implications for national security. The study contributes to a more

nuanced understanding of Islamic politics in Pakistan, essential for policymakers, scholars, and practitioners (Nazir, 2019).

The study explores the political dynamics, socio-economic context, and implications for Pakistan's future political landscape, highlighting the lack of comprehensive studies on the rise of religious parties during the 2002 elections. Existing research focuses on civil-military relations and military rule implications, but does not explore the unique conditions that allowed the Muslim Brotherhood to thrive. The study provides insights into socio-religious dynamics influencing voter behavior, allowing policymakers to understand the potential influence of religious parties on governance and national security (Misra, A, 2008).

The role and functions of political parties in Pakistan and their impact on the country's political development, particularly after the 2013 general elections. It focuses on academic scholars and faculty members' perceptions of political parties' effectiveness and contributions to political, social, and economic development. Existing research often addresses historical challenges and their relationships with military authorities, but lacks a systematic evaluation of contemporary perceptions. This gap indicates a need for focused research that captures the sentiments and evaluations of key stakeholders, such as scholars and educators, regarding the current state and potential of political parties in Pakistan. The findings highlight the need for reforms within political parties, capacity building, and institutionalization. The insights gained can inform policymakers, political leaders, and party activists about necessary changes and improvements to strengthen political parties, contributing to better governance and political stability in Pakistan (Mushtaq, Baig, & Mushtaq, 2018).

This article delves into the complex relationship between religious political leaders and the Pakistani public, focusing on their role in promoting right-wing extremism and the challenges it poses to state authority. It examines the historical context of this relationship, particularly during autocratic regimes, and how it influences contemporary political dynamics and the rise of extremism. The study emphasizes the need for a comprehensive analysis of the interplay between state authority, religious leadership, and public opinion. It provides insights into governance challenges in Pakistan, informs discussions on political reform, and encourages a balanced approach, acknowledging the potential for religious leaders to contribute constructively while addressing extremism dangers (Hussain, 2024).

The ideological struggle between the right-wing and left-wing political factions in Pakistan, rooted in pre-partition India, has been ongoing throughout the country's history. The left-wing has struggled to gain political power, despite being in a strong position, while the right-wing has firmly rooted Pakistan in a religious state based on nationalism and Islam. The left-wing's failure to capitalize on critical moments of opportunity in Pakistan's history is attributed to ideological disunity and internal disputes, leading to the left-wing's inability to form a cohesive ideological front. This has resulted in missed opportunities, particularly in the 1970s when the left-wing was in a strong position to influence the country's trajectory. Pakistan's ideological landscape remains largely dominated by the right-wing, with the right-wing's resilience justified by the strength of the right-wing as the left-wing weakened. Their ability to capitalize on the political vacuum left by the left allowed them to institutionalize Islamic nationalism as the dominant ideology in Pakistan (Chatha, 2023).

Pakistan's religious parties and leaders have struggled to define the country's Islamic identity in modern governance. Despite their attempts to influence through religious rhetoric and public sentiments, they lack democratic principles and have limited success in establishing themselves as a viable long-term solution. Key gaps include lack of democratic political engagement, failure to form a unified strategy, dependence on external forces, and the use of religious sentiment. Despite the MMA's brief success, religious parties have failed to govern effectively and meet public expectations, leading to disappointment among the populace. Their reliance on external forces undermines their credibility as authentic

democratic players and hinders their success in establishing a viable political agenda (Hussain, 2024).

Pakistan's constitution serves as the foundation for political parties, fostering a deep relationship between the state system and Islam. Islamic parties often have a religious-sectarian identity, with some aligning with militant groups or maintaining uncertain attitudes towards them. Their power is based on street-strength activists and madrassa students, with some parties gaining influence through mosques and madrassas. The power of Islamic political parties increased during General Zia-ul-Haq's army regime, which merged with the US and Middle Eastern states to build Afghan-Islamic resistance against Soviet soldiers. Some parties continue to interact with militant groups post-Afghan jihad and support al Qaeda and Taliban activists. Some Islamic parties have used power at federal or provincial levels, collaborating with national and local political parties or becoming part of the army government. However, they cannot rule independently through democratic elections (Karamat, Muzaffar, & Shah, 2019; Jathol, et. al., 2024)).

The study reveals a significant gap between the electoral promises made by political parties like the PMLN and PTI and the actual results achieved during their administration. The main issue is the discrepancy between these promises and the practical obstacles preventing their realization. Political parties like the PMLN and PTI aim to keep their electoral pledges, but complex political, economic, and external factors often limit their capacity to do so. This highlights the difficulties of statecraft and the art of governing, as political manifestos function as ambition records but encounter significant obstacles when converted into policy measures. The gap is attributed to the PMLN's success in areas like foreign investment, GDP growth, and inflation management, but its ongoing reliance on debt hindered its ability to solve self-sufficiency. PTI, on the other hand, managed to reduce trade imbalance by focusing on export development. This highlights the limitations of political pledges in complex, uncertain political and economic context (Zaman, & Mansoor, 2024).

Historical Background of Right-Wing Politics in Pakistan

Right-wing political parties have been influential in shaping the trajectory of Pakistani politics since the country's inception in 1947. These parties have generally embraced conservative, religious, and nationalist ideologies, focusing on maintaining traditional values, religious principles, and strong national identity. In Pakistan, right-wing parties have not only influenced the political discourse but have also played a significant role in determining policy directions, especially concerning religion, national security, and socio-economic issues. This article explores the evolution, significance, and impact of right-wing political parties in Pakistan, shedding light on their contributions and challenges in the political landscape.

Pakistan's right-wing politics have their origins in the country's founding. The main force behind the call for a distinct Muslim country, which led to the establishment of Pakistan, was the All-India Muslim League, which was led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Despite not being overtly right-wing, the Muslim League's emphasis on Islam and Muslim identity prepared the way for a political structure that was more religiously oriented. Several right-wing groups arose in the decades after independence with the goal of forming Pakistan's identity on Islamic principles.

The overall stance of the radical politics changed dramatically in the decade of the 70s. The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) led by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, a secular socialist party, gained momentum. It was possible for the political coalition known as Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) or the coalition of the rightist political factions to mobilize against Bhutto's government and remove it from the power in 1977. Throughout this period, the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) and other religious groups emerged and advocated for an Islamic state ruled by Shariah law (Hussain, 2024). The Western-backed jihad whose epicenter was Pakistan

backed with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in the year 1979 enhanced these right-wing forces especially during the rule of General Zia-ul-Haq from 1977 to 1988 who forever altered Pakistan's political landscape by instilling rightist Islamization policy and philosophy within the society, legal system and educational policies of Pakistan (Ullah, 2013).

Right-Wing Political Parties in Pakistan

The political history of Pakistan has seen the rise of several political parties with a tendency towards the right. Such parties include the following:

Pakistan Muslim League (PML): The PML has splintered into different factions during its political journey. One of the most important right-wing factions is Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) or PML-N, led by former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, it has an entrepreneurial spirit whereby it favors conservative economic policies, Islamic traditions, and an ardent sense of nationalism especially when it comes to its sovereignty and relations with India.

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI): Established in 1941 under the Auspices of Maulana Maududi, JI is one of the most effective and longest standing political/religious parties in Pakistan. It is a political party that seeks to set up an Islamic state that is governed by Sharia law and has actively advocated Islamic tenets in politics, education and any other field in society. However, JI has not been very successful in achieving a large proportion of the votes in national elections, the party has managed to wield considerable dominance in policy formulation and religious politics.

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI): Representing mostly the Deobandi Sunni sect of the Pakistan polity, JUI is yet another Islamic Religious Party that is able to garner massive support. The party has a considerable influence in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan provinces and has however, collaborated with other right-wing parties to increase its political reach (Butt, 2022). Besides this, the JUI has concentrated on such issues which include the making of Sharia law, with Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the party leader being concerned with the politics of Pakistan's secular and military dominated systems.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI): While PTI headed and popularized by Imran Khan was formed around the notions of being a centralized party that would fight against corruption, its principles have increasingly become steeped in nationalist and religious right ideology. PTI has pursued the cause of Islamic identity strengthening, Kashmir policy has been made more ambitious while Western intervention is being opposed fully. The question of social justice based on Islamic values, the fight against corruption as well as the active involvement of youth has been the main theme of the party between 2018 and 2022 when it was vice president (Zaman, & Mansoor, 2024).

Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA): The MMA is an alliance of several religious-political parties, including JI and JUI. Formed to create a united platform for religious parties, the MMA gained significant traction, especially in the 2002 elections, securing a large number of seats in KP. This alliance showcases the collective strength of right-wing religious parties when they come together for a common cause.

Impact of Right-Wing Political Parties on Pakistan's Politics

Right-wing political parties have left a lasting impact on Pakistan's political, social, and economic landscape. Their influence can be observed in several key areas:

Influence of Religion and Ideology

Pakistan's identity as an Islamic state has been significantly shaped by right-wing groups. These parties have incorporated Islamic principles into Pakistan's political system through constitutional modifications, legislative changes, and public debates. Their significance can be seen in the declaration of Pakistan as an Islamic Republic, the inclusion of the Objectives Resolution in the Constitution, and the establishment of Islamic regulations like the Hudood Ordinance (Mumtaz, Soomro, Laghari, & Laghari, 2024).

Electoral politics and coalition building

While individual right-wing parties may not always gain a majority in elections, they have demonstrated the ability to influence politics through coalition formation. The PNA's resistance to Bhutto's administration in the 1970s, the MMA's victory in the 2002 elections, and more recent partnerships indicate these parties' ability to create coalitions to promote their goals (Suhail, 2011). These alliances have allowed right-wing parties to gain policy concessions and influence decision-making even without a direct grasp on power.

National Security and Foreign Policy

Right-wing parties in Pakistan have traditionally taken a nationalist position on matters such as national security, foreign policy, and relations with neighbouring nations, notably India and Afghanistan. Their influence has frequently resulted in a strong stance on Kashmir, hostility to Western action, and support for measures consistent with Islamic solidarity. For example, the PTI's foreign policy approach, notably toward the United States and India, reflects the nationalist and religious sensibilities of right-wing ideology.

Social and Cultural Impact

Right-wing parties have continuously pushed for legislation that adhere to established social and cultural standards. This has included efforts against perceived Western cultural influence, advocacy for Islamic education, and opposition to liberal social changes. Right-wing parties' influence has frequently expressed itself in restrictions on free expression, opposition to gender equality efforts, and limitations on minority rights, all of which are deemed incompatible with Islamic ideals.

Regulation of Economic Matters

While left-wing parties have historically supported wealth redistribution and social programs, right-wing parties in Pakistan often favor market-oriented policies that prioritize stability and steady economic growth. For example, the PML-N has supported privatization, infrastructural development, and economic policies that promote the expansion of the private sector. However, because religious groups frequently demand economic justice in line with Islamic beliefs, emphasizing zakat (charity) and economic equality, this strategy occasionally causes conflict (Butt, 2022).

Challenges Faced by Right-Wing Political Parties

Despite their influence, right-wing parties in Pakistan face several challenges. First, ideological differences among these parties hinder their ability to form lasting alliances. Second, the shifting political landscape, marked by increasing calls for secularism and human rights, challenges the relevance of their conservative agenda. Additionally, the rise of populist parties like PTI has created competition for traditional right-wing parties, forcing them to adapt to new political dynamics and appeal to a broader base. Another major challenge is the global discourse on extremism and terrorism, which has put pressure on religious right-wing parties (Hussain, 2024). The international community has often criticized Pakistan for harboring extremist elements, leading to scrutiny of parties that espouse religious ideologies.

Religious Extremism and Radical Factions

By highlighting religious values and Islamic principles and portraying themselves as protectors of Pakistan's Islamic identity, right-wing political parties frequently win over the people. However, more extremist elements and parties that support a rigid view of Islam and call for tougher implementation of Islamic regulations present fierce competition for them. Conservative rules on social behavior, the rapid application of Sharia law, or harsher blasphemy laws are some of the policies that these extreme groups frequently demand (Ullah, 2013). The challenge for right-wing parties is to win over conservative and religious people who might share some of these strong viewpoints without promoting extreme beliefs that would turn off moderate voters or draw condemnation from around the world (Karamat, Muzaffar, & Shah, 2019).

The emergence of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), a far-right Islamist group that rose to prominence by highlighting Pakistan's blasphemy laws, is a perfect illustration of this dynamic. More conventional right-wing groups have been under pressure to support the TLP's tough stance on imposing severe penalties for blasphemy, which includes planning massive demonstrations and sit-ins, or risk losing some of their religious support. For example, the TLP staged a protracted sit-in in Faizabad in 2017 to call for more enforcement of the blasphemy laws. Conservative voters overwhelmingly supported their demonstrations, which forced other right-wing parties to adopt similar stances in order to avoid coming out as "less Islamic." In a similar vein, extremist organizations have frequently pushed Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) divisions to take increasingly radical positions on the application of Sharia law. More extreme groups criticize the JUI for being too moderate or politically compromised, even if the party may support religious ideals in government (Ullah, 2013). Right-wing parties face a conundrum as a result of this competition with radical factions: they must uphold their Islamic credentials to keep the support of conservative constituencies while avoiding overt support for radical agendas that might damage their reputation with moderate voters and draw attention from other countries. In order to appeal to a wide spectrum of people without associating with extremist ideologies, right-wing parties in Pakistan must strike a balance between these demands if they are to be relevant in the political environment.

Balancing Nationalism with Economic Realities

Upright-wing parties in Pakistan frequently champion nationalism and economic sovereignty, promoting policies aimed at reducing foreign influence and emphasizing "self-reliance." These parties often criticize dependency on foreign powers and advocate for protectionist measures to safeguard local industries, agriculture, and resources. However, Pakistan's economy is heavily dependent on international loans, foreign aid, and financial partnerships, especially through institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. This reliance creates a significant challenge for right-wing parties, as the need for foreign capital to stabilize Pakistan's economy clashes with their nationalist rhetoric.

For instance, even though these agreements included strict economic reforms and austerity measures, Pakistan had no choice but to negotiate rescue packages with the IMF when it faced serious balance-of-payments difficulties in recent years. Increasing taxes, cutting subsidies, and liberalizing trade are common IMF requirements that might be politically controversial and seem to go against nationalist pledges of economic independence. One notable example is the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), which pledged to create an economically independent Pakistan throughout its campaign and attacked past administrations for repeatedly requesting IMF loans. However, after taking office, the PTI administration was forced to seek a rescue package from the IMF in 2019 due to economic concerns. Despite nationalist aspirations, this dependency on foreign aid highlights the

challenging balancing act right-wing parties must perform between advancing sovereignty and tackling the nation's pressing economic issues.

Navigation Civil Military Relations

In Pakistan, right-wing parties frequently align with the military on national security and foreign policy issues, supporting the military's strong stance on regional challenges, especially regarding India and Afghanistan. This alignment helps these parties project an image of unity and strength in defending Pakistan's sovereignty. However, this close relationship with the military can complicate the autonomy of these parties, as it may limit their ability to pursue independent policy decisions and address civilian concerns. For example, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) faced significant challenges during Nawaz Sharif's tenure as Prime Minister (Zaman, & Mansoor, 2024). While initially aligned with the military, Nawaz Sharif later attempted to assert greater civilian control over foreign policy by promoting peace talks with India, a move that conflicted with the military's cautious approach. This created civil-military tensions that escalated when the military openly disagreed with the government's policy direction. Eventually, these tensions contributed to political and legal challenges for Nawaz Sharif, leading to his disqualification from office. This example underscores the constraints right-wing parties encounter in Pakistan when their attempts to exercise political independence clash with the military's interests, highlighting how civil-military dynamics can restrict their capacity to govern autonomously.

Countering Left-Leaning Narratives on Social Justice

Right-wing parties in Pakistan frequently confront the problem of combating left-leaning narratives emphasizing social justice, women's rights, and minorities. While generally conservative, both parties are becoming more mindful of changing societal expectations, particularly as younger Pakistanis indicate a willingness to embrace progressive views on these topics. Right-wing parties must strike a delicate balance in order to address calls for social inclusion and equality while without losing their conservative support base. For example, as fights about women's rights, such as support for the annual Aurat March, gained traction in cities, right-wing groups faced a quandary. Some leaders denounced the movement, portraying it as incompatible with traditional values, in order to appeal to conservative voters who saw the marches as too radical or Westernized. However, by ignoring or opposing such efforts outright, they risk losing younger, urban voters who see gender equality as a critical issue. This paradox highlights the larger dilemma for Pakistan's right-wing parties: as left-leaning discourses on social justice gain support, these parties must find methods to remain relevant by embracing calls for reform while maintaining their conservative foundations.

Managing Sectarian and Ethnic Divisions

Right-wing parties in Pakistan often champion a unified national identity rooted in religious and cultural values, but the country's sectarian and ethnic diversity makes this a challenging endeavor. Pakistan's population includes various sects, particularly Sunni and Shia communities, and distinct ethnic groups with strong provincial identities, such as the Baloch, Sindhi, and Pashtun. Right-wing parties frequently draw significant support from religious or ethnic groups that align with their nationalistic or religious narratives. However, they must also navigate sectarian divides and regional nationalist sentiments that may conflict with their broader national agenda.

For instance, right-wing parties such as Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) or Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) have at times struggled to gain substantial support in Balochistan, where there is a strong sense of regional identity and ongoing calls for greater autonomy. In Balochistan, nationalist movements often resist the centralized policies

promoted by these parties, viewing them as favoring the dominant Punjab province over marginalized regions. Similarly, sectarian tensions between Sunni and Shia communities can lead to friction, as right-wing parties may be perceived as catering more to the Sunni majority, which can alienate Shia voters (Mumtaz, Soomro, Laghari, & Laghari, 2024). This delicate balancing act between promoting a unified national vision and respecting Pakistan's diverse sectarian and ethnic landscape poses ongoing challenges for right-wing parties, requiring them to carefully manage these dynamics to avoid deepening divides.

Economic Constraints and Promises of Welfare

Right-wing parties in Pakistan frequently campaign on promises of welfare based on Islamic principles, such as zakat (required almsgiving) and Qard-e-Hasana (interest-free loans), with the goal of providing economic assistance while upholding religious ideals. However, executing these social programs is difficult due to Pakistan's severe economic restrictions, high debt levels, and reliance on international financial aid. These economic factors restrict the government's ability to spend significant funding on social programs. Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) administration promised to establish a welfare state, citing the notion of Riyasat-e-Madina (an ideal Islamic welfare state), and introduced initiatives like the Ehsaas project to assist poor communities through cash transfers and subsidies (Zaman, & Mansoor, 2024). However, as Pakistan's economic situation deteriorated and debt repayment requirements increased, the PTI struggled to extend and sustain these charity programs. Critics felt that the government's pledges were unduly ambitious given the fiscal realities, and the party drew criticism from both supporters and opponents for failing to provide comprehensive economic assistance. This example highlights the dilemma for Pakistan's right-wing parties: while Islamic welfare programs are popular among the people, delivering on these promises in the face of economic restrictions remains difficult and frequently politically expensive.

Addressing Education and Extremism

In Pakistan, right-wing parties have a delicate and difficult job when it comes to educational reform, particularly with regard to madrassas (religious institutions). Madrassas are crucial for religious instruction, but some have come under fire for spreading conservative or, in certain situations, extremist views. The issue of incorporating contemporary disciplines like science, math, and critical thinking into madrassa curriculum without compromising Islamic principles or offending hardline followers is formidable. For example, Prime Minister Imran Khan introduced a "Single National Curriculum" (SNC) under the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government with the goal of standardizing education. In order to guarantee that pupils at religious institutions received a more comprehensive, well-rounded education, the SNC worked to unify religious and secular schools under a common framework, incorporating contemporary disciplines into madrassa curriculum. However, conservative elements criticized this move because certain religious groups opposed it, believing it would weaken Islamic ideals in madrassas. Furthermore, detractors claimed that because madrassa reform was still patchy and uneven, the PTI administration did not adequately address the underlying roots of extremism. In an environment where educational reform is frequently met with resistance, this example demonstrates the delicate balance that right-wing parties in Pakistan must strike: they must modernize the educational system to meet international standards while maintaining the religious values that are significant to their conservative base.

Political Polarization and Alienation of Moderate Voters

Right-wing parties in Pakistan are faced with the challenging job of winning over both their conservative base and more moderate or undecided voters in an era of growing political polarization. While a turn toward moderation may cause resentment from core supporters who want the party to retain conservative beliefs, leaning too far to the right

runs the danger of losing centrists who might think the party's position is too strict or exclusive (Hussain,2024).This difficulty might be shown by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). The PML-N, which has always been a center-right party, has been under criticism from both political factions. By implementing more practical economic and social programs in recent years, it has attempted to win over moderate, urban voters. At times, it has even made an effort to break away from rigidly orthodox positions on matters like as women's rights or regional diplomacy (Ullah,2013). However, traditionalist supporters who believe the party is straying from its basic principles have occasionally criticized this change. On the other hand, a too conservative stance has made it challenging to win over middle-class, urban voters who prefer more progressive policies. As various factions argue about the party's future course, this delicate balance has caused internal tensions within the PML-N, underscoring the larger difficulty for right-wing parties to appeal to a wide range of political views without losing their identity or alienating important voter groups.

Conclusion

Ultimately, Pakistan's political, social, and economic progress has been shaped in large part by right-wing political groups. These parties have made a significant impact on the country's fabric through their emphasis on Islamic values and nationalism as well as their effect on social conventions, education, and economic policies. They have consistently adjusted to the shifting political climate, staying relevant by supporting nationalist sentiment and more general Islamic ideals but still cooperating pragmatically when needed to form coalitions. Right-wing groups continue to play a significant role in determining Pakistan's future as the country faces new difficulties, such as economic instability and geopolitical upheavals. They will remain a powerful force in Pakistani politics because of their capacity to strike a compromise between traditional beliefs and contemporary political realities. The tenacity of right-wing beliefs, which are based on Islamic precepts, guarantees that these parties will probably continue to hold sway and guarantee their position in Pakistani politics for some time to come.

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